

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation and is discriminatory.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Totalitarian regimes are known for controlling the media; this is an example of totalitarian action by Sinclair. In order to have freedom of press/speech, this sort of action cannot be tolerated.

The FCC in the past few years is far more restrictive as far as amateur radio is concerned than it is when monitoring the actions of monopolistic companies that own dozens of radio stations.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.